

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1966

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAG: PFOR, EAID, PO, US

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 297463

1. PRIOR RECEIPT REFTEL, I HAD RAISED WITH EJIL JORGENSEN,
PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF DANISH MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
QUESTION OF EUROPEAN ECONMIC AID TO PORTUGAL. JORGENSEN
TOLD ME THAT DANISH BILATERAL AID HAS BEEN MODEST INDEED:
EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY
FOR HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES. THIS AID WAS DECIDED BY DANISH
GOVERNMENT ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO.

2. JORGENSEN SAID THAT BULK OF EEC-9 ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL
WAS CHANNELED THROUGH EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK. UNFORTUNATELY,
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IT TAKES FORM OF POJRECT AID AND PORTUGAL DOES NOT PRESENTLY
HAVE THE TIME TO WORK UP NECESSARY PAPERS TO USE FULLY THIS

TYPE OF AID.

3. I STRESSED WITH JORGENSEN NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL, PARTICULARLY IN FORM OF CASH, AND DESCRIBED DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION AS EXEMPLIFIED BY PORTUGAL'S RAPIDLY DWINDLING FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. DRAWING ON AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S PRESENTATION AT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE, I SAID THAT PORTUGUESE MAY BE DISAPPOINTED BY THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE THEY HAVE RECEIVED SO FAR AND THAT WE HOPED EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS COULD DO MORE TO HELP PORTUGUESE. I THEN GAVE HIM SUMMARY OF OUR OWN EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD. JORGENSEN REPLIED THAT HE DOUBTED DANES WOULD DO MORE BILATERALLY BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO ANY INITIATIVE IN EEC FOR COMMON MARKET TO GRANT ADDITIONAL AID TO PORTUGAL WHICH WOULD NOT BE LINKED TO RIGID PROJECT AID.

4. COMMENT: SOARES IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT COPENHAGEN JANUARY 18-19 TO ATTEND MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS (COPENHAGEN 3662). THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE ATTENDED BY MANY LEADING EUROPEAN POLITICANS. WHILE IT IS NOT A GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE, IT IS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR SOARES TO PRESENT PORTUGUESE CASE FOR ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC AID. BY SKILLFULLY LINKING CONTINUATION IN IMPROVEMENT OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL TO URGENT NEED FIND ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO MEET PORTUGAL'S PRESSING ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS, I SHOULD THINK FOREIGN SOCIALIST LEADERS MIGHT BE RECEIPTIVE TO SOARES PLEA. FOREIGN SOCIALIST (LABOR) LEADERS IN TURN CAN USE THEIR INFLUENCE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO GET THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO ACT ON THIS MATTER.

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